

two nests, apparently in course of construction, were found, and two old ones—one being in a stiff-leaved *Grevillea* and one in another kind of bush.

One of the bird's calls—probably its alarm note—is loud and sounds something like “chuc-chuc-chuc-chuc-chuc” repeated very rapidly many times. Another noise is composed of jerky, rattle-like notes. The birds are shy as well as noisy.

NEST.—Cup-shaped; fairly well built of very fine threads of bark, felted or matted together with an abundance of spiders' webs and torn cocoons, imparting to the structures a whitish appearance externally; lined inside with fine grass and a few feathers; usually suspended by the rim, at a height varying from 3 feet to 6 feet from the ground, in creeper in Mallee (*Eucalyptus*) scrub. Dimensions over all, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in depth; egg cavity, 2 inches across by 2 inches deep.

EGGS.—Clutch 2; in the type set one is almost elliptical in form, the other a roundish oval; texture of shell fine; surface glassy; colour white, sparingly and finely spotted with rufous or reddish-brown and faint purplish-brown, the markings being more numerous about the apex. Dimensions in inches—elliptical, .84 x .6; roundish, .79 x .64. These eggs are among the lightest-coloured of *Ptilotis* eggs.

THE SOUTHERN SCIENCE RECORD.

SOME uncertainty seems to exist as to the number of issues of the *Southern Science Record*, and being one of the few possessors of what is, I believe, a complete set, some particulars about it may enable others to note deficiencies existing in theirs.

The journal was commenced as a 16-page octavo magazine, price sixpence, in December, 1880, and its first volume consists of thirteen numbers. Its second volume commenced as a 24-page monthly in January, 1882, at the same price. In January, 1883, it came out as a 32-page journal, at the price of one shilling, but the later numbers of that volume became gradually smaller, owing to want of financial and other support, and did not appear till some months after the months named on their covers, consequently several were not issued until well on in 1884. With the number for January, 1885, commenced vol. i. of a new series, 24 pages at one shilling per month, of which, however, only four numbers were issued, when it again ceased. However, nothing daunted, the indefatigable proprietor started again, in January, 1886, with the first number of vol. ii., 24 pages at one shilling, intending to gradually supply the missing numbers for the past year, but did not get any further.

Of the four numbers for 1885, and the one for 1886, I believe few copies reached the general public, and a list of the titles of the papers published may be of interest:—

- Jan. Contributions to the Palæontology of Older Rocks of 1885
Australia, by Prof. R. Tate.
Microscope and its Useful Application, by C. R. Blackett.
Remarks on Flora of Australian Alps, with Introductory
Notes on the Geology and Meteorology, by J. Stirling,
F.G.S. Continued in February, March, and April.
- Feb. Definitions of Some New Australian Plants, by Baron F.
von Mueller. Continued March and April.
The Fertilization of Plants, by T. Harrison.
Oology of Australian Birds, supplement i., by A. J.
Campbell.
- Mar. The Protection of our Native Birds, by A. J. Campbell.
Notes on *Leipoa ocellata*, by F. W. Andrews.
- April Some Indigenous Shrubs of South Australia Suitable for
Fodder, by S. Dixon.
- Jan. List of Australian Terebridæ, by Prof. R. Tate.
1886 Fossil Terebridæ of Australia, by Prof. R. Tate.
Description of *Medinilla maidenii*, by Baron F. von
Mueller.
Oology of Australian Birds, supplement ii., with illustration
of nest of *Sittella leucocephalus*, by A. J. Campbell.
The Volcanic Eruption in Straits of Sunda, by D. Ploos
van Amstel.

The journal at the time it was commenced filled a vacant place, and even now a monthly magazine giving such excellent abstracts as appeared in it of the latest proceedings of all the scientific societies of Australasia should be a desideratum to scientific workers throughout the colonies, who now have to wait until the appearance of the quarterly, half-yearly, or annual proceedings, as the case may be, of the different societies to learn what their neighbours are doing. Could not the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science step in and provide this undoubted want? The expense would not be a great deal, and it would do much to keep workers in touch with one another.

The magazine, no doubt, did not receive the financial support requisite to enable the proprietor, Mr. Joseph Wing, to carry it on except at a great sacrifice of both time, energy, and money. For the first two years it was subsidized to a small extent by the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, but during 1883 the Club decided to publish its own proceedings, and in January, 1884, the first number of the *Victorian Naturalist* appeared, the present number being the 191st of the series.

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